

HOUSE No. 2647

By Mr. Dempsey of Haverhill, petition of Brian S. Dempsey and Steven A. Baddour for legislation to authorize the Department of Public Health to certify medication technicians for dispensing certain oral medications in nursing facilities. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO MEDICATION TECHNICIAN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 72 of Chapter 111 of the Massachusetts General Laws
2 as appearing in the 2002 edition is hereby amended by adding at
3 the end thereof the following new section:—

4 Section 72Z. As used in this section the following words shall
5 have the following meanings:—

6 “Long term care facility,” a convalescent home, nursing home,
7 rest home or charitable home for the aged licensed under the pro-
8 visions of section seventy one of said chapter.

9 “Medication technician,” any employee of a long term care
10 facility who has certification and under the guidance of a regis-
11 tered nurse dispenses to a patient in a long term care facility any
12 oral medication, which is not included in the schedules of con-
13 trolled substances established under the Federal Comprehensive
14 Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act.

15 The department shall establish standards for training and certi-
16 fication of medication technicians. Training shall include, but not
17 be limited to quality measurements to assure competency and
18 ongoing educational requirements.

19 Any person administering a long term care facility may hire a
20 medication technician who has documented evidence of having
21 satisfactorily completed a training program and competency test
22 approved by the department on the topic of dispensing medica-
23 tions.

24 The department shall make such rules and regulations as may
25 be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.